



Water Purity

Information Provided by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

Drinking water sources in the United States, both tap water and bottled water, include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, sometimes, radioactive material. Water also picks up substances resulting from animal or human activity.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulates contaminants in bottled water to provide the same public health protection.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. Their presence does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in source (“raw”) water

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Bloomington’s Water is Regularly Tested

2005 Water Quality Results

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and City staff regularly test samples of Bloomington’s water for more than 140 contaminants. **No contaminants were detected at levels that exceeded the state or federal standards.** Some substances were detected in trace amounts below the maximum allowed in drinking water. Only those substances that were detected appear on the table; many results are not listed because the substances were not found at any time in 2005 by tests designed to detect them. Some substances are tested less than once

per year; in such cases, the most recent results and the test date are reported. Some contaminants do not have Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) established. These "unregulated contaminants" are assessed using state standards known as health risk limits to determine if they pose a threat. If unacceptable levels of an unregulated contaminant are found, the response is the same as if an MCL has been exceeded; the water system must inform its customers and take other corrective actions.

The table’s upper portion summarizes test results performed on Bloomington water. The lower portion shows results for Minneapolis water because we blend Minneapolis treated surface water with our water plant’s treated groundwater. Bloomington’s water is a blend of water from these two sources. To obtain a source water assessment on your drinking water, call 651-201-4670 or 1-800-818-9318 (press 5) during normal business hours. Source water assessments are also available on-line at <http://mdh-agua.health.state.mn.us/swa/>.

Detected substance	Amount detected	Allowed (MCL)	Ideal (MCLG)	Typical source of substance	Type	Meets standards?
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON						
Chlorine (ppm)	Avg. = 1.6 (0.8 to 2.1)	4 MRDL	4 MRDLG	Water additive used to control microbes	R	Yes
Combined Radium (pCi/l) (03/21/2003)	0.21	5.4	0	Erosion of natural deposits	NR	Yes
Copper (ppm)	90% = 0.16 (0 of 30 sites over AL)	AL= 1.3	NA	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	NR	Yes
Fluoride (ppm)	Avg. = 1.1 (1.0 to 1.2)	4	4	Added for strong teeth/bones; erosion of natural deposits	R	Yes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Avg. = 0.8 (ND to 7.6)	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection	R	Yes
Lead (ppb)	90% =12.0 (2 of 30 sites over AL)	AL = 15	NA	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	R	Yes
Sodium (ppm) (02/13/2004)	4.4	NR	NR	Erosion of natural deposits	NR	Yes
Sulfate (ppm) (02/13/2004)	5.3	NR	NR	Erosion of natural deposits	NR	Yes
Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Avg. = 0.8 (0.5 to 1.3)	80	0	Chlorination by-product	R	Yes
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS						
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L) (04/17/2002)	0.4	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits	R	Yes
Chlorine (ppm)	Avg. = 2.9 (2.1 to 3.1)	4 MRDL	4 MRDLG	Water additive used to control microbes	R	Yes
Copper (ppm)	0.26 (0 of 50 sites over AL)	AL = 1.3	NA	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	R	Yes
Fluoride (ppm)	Avg. = 1.0 (1 to 1.1)	4	4	Added for strong teeth/bones; erosion of natural deposits	R	Yes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Avg. = 27 (7.2 to 56)	60	0	Chlorination by-product	R	Yes
Lead (ppb)	4 (0 of 50 sites over AL)	AL = 15	NA	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	R	Yes
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	0.24	10	10	Fertilizer runoff; leaching of septic or sewer; erosion of natural deposits	NR	Yes
Sodium (ppm) (12/1/2004)	8.9	NR	NR	Erosion of natural deposits	NR	Yes
Sulfate (ppm) (12/1/2004)	23	NR	NR	Erosion of natural deposits	NR	Yes
Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Avg. 36 (ND to 69)	80	0	Chlorination by-product	R	Yes
Turbidity (NTU)	Max: 0.31 (limit met 99%)	TT	NA	Soil runoff	R	Yes
Total Coliform (cfu)	1%	Less than 5%	0	Bacteria naturally present in the environment	R	Yes

Key

MCL	Maximum Contamination Level. The highest level allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.	NA	Not Applicable.	NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit. A measure of water clarity.
		AL	Action Level. An amount that, if exceeded, triggers a specific response that a water system must follow.	pCi/L	Picocuries Per Liter. Measures radioactivity.
MCLG	Maximum Contamination Level Goal. Below this level there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.	TT	Treatment Technique. A required process intended to keep the level of a contaminant at an acceptably low level.	MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.
		ppb	Parts Per Billion. Units of a substance, in pure form, found in every billion units of water.	MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.
NR	Not Regulated , but monitoring is required by the State of Minnesota. No limits have been set for this compound.	ppm	Parts Per Million. Units of a substance, in pure form, found in every million units of water.	ND	No Detection.
R	Regulated.			90%	This is the value obtained after disregarding the 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels.